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SRI PADMAPRABHA GOUNDER :—" May I know whether the Vittri–Thariod Road in Wynaad is going to be metalled, and if so, when do the Government propose to take up the job as there is heavy timber traffic on this road? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" Even for this question, notice is required. Anyway, the suggestion will be considered."

JANAB K. M. SEETHI :—" May I know how many of the roads recommended by Mr. Vipen have been constructed after the report was submitted? "

THE HON. SRI N. SANKARA REDDI :—" I think, this scheme is an old scheme and it has been revised. Many more roads are added. To give detailed information, I want notice."

Gruel centres for Cuddapah district.

* 168 Q.—SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Land Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have ordered the Collector of Cuddapah to stop opening any more gruel centres in Cuddapah district or to go slow with them ; and

(*b*) whether the Government have received any representations from the public and the Taluk Famine Relief Advisory Committees to open gruel centres in Rajampet, Pulivendla and Kamalapuram taluks?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" (*a*) & (*b*) No."

SRI N. SIVARAMI REDDI :—" Are the Government aware that more than 25 gruel centres in the Cuddapah district—22 in Kamalapuram sub-taluk and 3 in Cuddapah taluk—have been closed a week back though the famine conditions remain the same in that area? If not, will the Government take cognizance of the same and order their immediate restoration and also assure this House that no gruel centre will be closed until conditions of large-scale employment prevail, that is, till the harvest time? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" My information is that no gruel centres have been closed. On the other hand, instructions have been given that if more centres are required, they must be opened."

SRI G. YELLAMANDA REDDI :—" Sir, have the Government ordered to close gruel centres in the famine affected areas of Nellore district? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" The main question is about Cuddapah district. Let the hon. Member give notice of a fresh question."

SRI T. NAGI REDDI :—" Sir, in view of the fact that dangerous diseases like cholera are widespread in the Cuddapah district, will the Government consider the desirability of opening not only

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more gruel centres but also substantial food centres, so that the people's resistance power could be raised and the incidence of cholera might, to an extent, be cut short?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" We are here concerned with gruel centres. As for food centres, it can be considered separately. I may inform the hon. Member that there are 407 gruel centres working in the Cuddapah district."

SRI P. VENKATASUBBAYYA :—" Sir, will the Government direct the Collector to open gruel centres in the places selected by the Taluk Famine Committees?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" I cannot say about the Taluk Famine Committees. But the Collectors have got the absolute discretion to open new gruel centres wherever the need arises."

SRI PILLALAMARRI VENKATESWARLU :—" The hon. Member, Mr. Sivarami Reddi, who put the question, said that 25 gruel centres in the Cuddapah district had been closed. In view of this information, will the Hon. Minister pay a special visit to this district and find out for himself whether the report supplied to him by the officials, or the report given by the hon. Member here, is correct?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER:—" I wonder why the hon. Member requires me to go to Cuddapah to see whether gruel centres are closed. I can as well find out here and my information is about a week old and I do not think anything untoward would have happened during the course of one week."

SRI M. DHARMALINGAM :—" Will the Hon. Minister tell us whether it is a fact that gruel centres must be opened only in places where the Congress got full support in the last General Elections?"

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU NAICKER :—" Sir, politics has nothing to do with gruel centres."

Protection to groundnut crops.

* 169 *Q.*—SRI N. MAHALINGAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government are aware of the fact that a certain worm (kampilipulu) destroys the groundnut crops year after year in Pollachi taluk; and

(*b*) if so, what steps they have taken in the matter and propose to take to eradicate the same?

THE HON. DR. R. NAGAN GOUDA :—" (*a*) The pest, namely, kampilipulu is the red hairy caterpillar of groundnut which seappears sporadically and not every year in the Pollachi taluk.